

Public Health Committee:

I am writing in support of the bill labelled "**Public Health Committee: H.B. 6200**". My family lives on Cape Cod and we know all too well the impact Lyme Disease can have on an individual, a family and on our health care system. I hope Connecticut passes this bill so physicians in your state can treat patients as they feel through experience and documentation is necessary.

In 1999 my daughter was a senior in high school at Nauset Regional High School. She became very tired and achy. She was tested for mono which came back negative and she slowly got better. Her freshmen year at Harvard she again had the same symptoms and was tested for Lyme disease as well as mono. She was very positive for Lyme Disease with an infection that had probably been simmering for a while. She received three weeks of antibiotics. Two years later she was having major problems with concentration and dizziness. Her new Cape Cod physician ordered a spinal tap and it was determined she had central nervous system Lyme disease. She was having such trouble concentrating that she became a special needs student at Harvard. After about 6 months of IV antibiotics she was able to focus and wrote a 100 page thesis. As an aside, we are grateful to a specialist in your state because whenever they tried at Cape Cod Hospital to start her on an IV medication she had such a large Herximer or some other reaction that she would nearly pass out.. The doctor in Connecticut had experience with this and was able to successfully get her on treatment. Her fatigue has continued and whenever she goes off oral antibiotics it is much worse.

Thank you for supporting this important bill. If my daughter had been diagnosed her senior year of high school or had been given a longer treatment when diagnosed her freshmen year in college her life would probably be easier and with less pain as well as the health care system would not have had to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for her treatment.

Thank you for your assistance.

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